

Message Text

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PAGE 01 HONG K 06381 200310Z
ACTION HA-05

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 INSE-00 /029 W
-----052793 211058Z/14

R 190911Z MAY 78
FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 467
INFO USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SREF
SUBJECT: ARRIVAL 22 BOAT REFUGEES EX SINGAPORE FREIGHTER

REF: HONG KONG 6265

1. HONG KONG IMMIGRATION DEPT (HKID) HAS NOT YET GIVEN THESE 22 BOAT REFUGEES TEMPORARY ASYLUM. WE UNDERSTAND FROM HKID THAT SINGAPORE GOVT IS BEING ASKED TO ASSUME RESPONSIBILITY FOR THEM. WHILE HKID IS NOT OPTIMISTIC ABOUT RESULTS, IT CONCERNED ABOUT METHOD THEIR ARRIVAL.

2. THESE REFUGEES ENCOUNTERED SINGAPORE FLAG SHIP TONG SING ON MAY 13 IN SOUTH CHINA SEA PROCEEDING FROM SINGAPORE TO PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA. SHIP FIRST REFUSED TO ASSIST THEM, BUT REFUGEE BOAT FOLLOWED SHIP AND BEGAN TO FLOUNDER IN ITS WAKE. AT THAT POINT SHIP PICKED THEM UP. WHEN SHIP WAS NEAR HONG KONG WATERS ON MAY 18, REFUGEES WERE OFFLOADED INTO LIFE BOAT WITHOUT OARS OR MOTOR AND SET ADRIFT. SHIP APPARENTLY RADIOED HONG KONG MARINE DEPT TO REPORT LOCATION OF LIFE BOAT AND PROCEEDED ONWARDS. ROYAL NAVY VESSEL RESPONDED TO CALL AND PICKED UP THESE

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REFUGEES.

3. REFTEL WAS INCORRECT IN REPORTING THAT SINAGPORE SHIP FIRST WENT TO PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA.

4. ARRIVAL THESE REFUGEES WAS REPORTED IN TODAY'S SOUTH CHINA MORNING POST WITH HEADLINE "CAPTAIN DUMPS HUMAN

CARGO." URBAN COUNCILLOR DR. HUANG WAS REPORTED ON ARTICLE AS STATING HONG KONG GOVT SHOULD LODGE PROTEST WITH SINGAPORE GOVT THROUGH LONDON. ARTICLE NOTED THAT ANOTHER URBAN COUNCILLOR, MRS. ELLIOTT, DESCRIBED THEIR TREATMENT BY CAPTAIN AS INHUMANE.

SHOESMITH

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: REFUGEES, SEA RESCUES
Control Number: n/a
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Draft Date: 19 may 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
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Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Handling Restrictions: n/a
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ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780541/aaaabiep.tel
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Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 6d488c9a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION HA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
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TAGS: SREF, HK, VM
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